Dewan Mr. Raghaviah used to address stern words to Heads of Departments when he found that they overlooked the claims of unrepresented communities and rigorous orders were issued towards compelling them to recognise those claims. But after Mr. Raghaviah's time, the officers generally disregarded those orders. Government should accept communal representation as an immutable working principle and, in respect of new appointments for the next ten ears, should make it a point to confer 50 per cent. of the appointments on qualified members of unrepresented communities.

In making appointments in the Police Department, character, far more than physical fitness, should be considered as the qualification for appointment. The pay of the Constables should be raised to Rs. 15-20. The existing scale of pay was so low that it should be no matter for surprise if they accepted illegal gratification. Motor traffic had increased a hundred-fold in recent years and for the proper control and direction of that traffic a special traffic section of the Police Department should be organised under specially qualified Inspectors and a District Superintendent'.

DEWAN'S REPLY: സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യത്തെപ്പററി നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞ ഭാഗങ്ങൾ അതിലേക്കായി നിയമിക്കപ്പെട്ടന്ന കമ്മററിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടവരുത്തിയതിനുശേഷം ആലോചിക്കാം.

പോലീസ് വകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ട്രാഫിക്ക് പോലീസിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും നിങ്ങൾ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ട്രാഫിക്ക്പോലീസിനെ പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു വകുപ്പാക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തെപ്പററി ഗവർമെൻറ് ആലോചിച്ചുവരികയാണ്.

MEMBER: പോലീസ്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളം പരിഷ്കരിക്കണം.

DEWAN: അവരുടെ ശമ്പളം ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെവർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് കുറെശ്ശേകുറെശ്ശേയായി കഴിയുന്നത്ര പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിൽ കൂടുതൽ പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നതു് സാദ്ധ്യവുമല്ലല്ലോ.

[Your representation regarding communal representation in the public service will be considered after receipt of the report of the committee proposed to be appointed. The question of a separate Traffic Branch in the Police Department is under consideration. The pay of the constables has recently been revised and nothing more than gradual enhancement is possible.]

183. Public Service.

MR. MANI JACOB (*Municipal Council, Kottayam*), who made his representation in Malayalam said that Provident Fund should be introduced in lieu of pension for all Government servants. It would be a

great help to the widows and children of the officers who died after 20 or 25 years' service. The member mentioned the instances of several high officers of State who had died before or immediately after retirement and whose widows and children were therefore deprived of the benefits of the pension system. The case of the poor low-paid officers was even worse. The State Life Insurance system was not satisfactory.

Efficiency, instead of seniority, should be the criterion for giving promotions to officers in service drawing Rs. 150 and above as salary. Many capable Christian officers were denied encouragement. At the time of the separation of the Devaswoms from the Revenue Department, there were two Christian Division Assistants and a Christian Dewan Peishkar. But they had all retired and no Christian was appointed in their places. A Christian should be appointed as Division Assistant. Similarly, one of the vacancies in the cadre of Assistant Excise Commissioners should be filled up by a Christian. The two Christian Assistant Commissioners had retired recently from service.

The minimum pay in Government service should be raised and fixed at Rs. 12 per mensem. That was the minimum amount required by a man for his subsistence.

DEWAN'S REPLY : പ്രാവിഡൻറ ഫ്ണ്ട് ഏർപ്പെട്ടത്തണമെന്നനിങ്ങൾ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതു വളരെ ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതായ ഒരു വിഷയമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഒരു ഇൻവെസ്റ്റിഗേഷൻ (investigation) നടത്താതെ അതിനെപ്പററി ഒന്നും പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

൧൫൦ രൂപായ്ക്കുമേൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ കായ്ക്ഷമതയുള്ളവരെ മാത്രമെ നിയമിക്കാവു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. വലിയഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ വെരംസീനിയാറിട്ടി (seniority) മാത്രം നോക്കിയല്ല നിയമിക്കുന്നതു്. കായ്ക്ഷമതയും നോക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിലെ കുറഞ്ഞശമ്പളം ൧൫ രൂപായാക്കണമെന്നു നിങ്ങൾപറഞ്ഞു. കാലക്രമത്തിൽ നിങ്ങൾ പറയുന്നതുപോലെ കുറഞ്ഞശമ്പളം ൧൫ രൂപാ ആകുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കാം. തല്ക്കാലം ഞാൻ മുമ്പെപറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ, ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൻെറ ധനസ്ഥിതിക്രടി നോക്കി എത്രത്തോളം ചെയ്യാമൊ അത്രത്തോളം ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും ശമ്പളക്കൂടുതൽ കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നുണ്ട്.

MEMBER: പ്രാവിഡൻറ ഫ്ണ്ട് താണപടിയിലുള്ള ശമ്പളക്കാക്കാണ് അത്യാവശ്യം. അവർ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ട അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അഞ്ചാറുമാസത്തിനുമുമ്പു ഒരുപാവപ്പെട്ട ശിപായിയുടെ ഭാര്യയും മക്കളും തെണ്ടിനടന്നു പണം പിരിച്ചാണ് അവരുടെ സ്വദേശത്തേക്കു പോയതു്.

DEWAN : നിങ്ങൾ പറയുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള സന്ദർഭം വരുമെന്ന എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞത് അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു ഇൻവെസ്റ്റിഗേഷൻ (investigation) നടത്തിയല്ലാതെ പറയത്തക്ക ഒരു സംഗതിയല്ല എന്നാണ്.

[In regard to the Provident Fund, it requires investigation. For higher appointments, efficiency and not seniority alone is taken into account. In due time the lowest pay in Government service will be Rs. 12 per mensem. Just now, enhancements of salaries are limited by financial considerations.]

184. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kunnatnad taluk, Group I*) said that various representations had been made in the Assembly from time to time strongly urging the need for bringing about changes in its constitution, function and powers. But it still remained as a body of petitioners. In the early years of its existence, any subject whatsoever could be discussed in the Assembly and the Government were ready to carry out the suggestions made therein. But it had all changed. In the existing condition of the institution, members could represent only two subjects. It was regrettable that the representatives of the people were not allowed to carry on reasonable discussions on administrative questions. In Mysore, such privileges were conferred on the members of the Assembly and it was found to be of great advantage to the people and to the Government. The representative Assembly of that State had in certain respects greater powers than the Legislative Council. It was necessary to reform the Assembly in Travancore. A considerable section of the people were against its continuance in its existing condition.

The members of the Committee appointed for suggesting changes in the functions and powers of the Assembly tendered resignation of their places as they found that the Government did not contemplate a radical reform of the institution.

A committee consisting of constitutional lawyers should define the powers of the institution. The Assembly should have a voice in legislation and administration. The property qualification of voters should be reduced considerably. The institution should be given statutory recognition and should meet twice a year. Its members should be elected for a period of three years. The agenda of legislative work in the Legislative Council should previously be presented in the Assembly so that the latter might discuss the principles of the bills concerned. The members should have the right to record their decisions by the majority of votes and the Council should accept such decisions. The Assembly should be given the right to interpellate Government, to move resolutions on matters of public interest and to make general observations on the budget. So reformed, the Assembly would prove to be an invaluable aid to Government.